

### REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-6 were objected to as containing informalities and were otherwise indicated to be allowable. The Examiner noted that claim 1 is generic and since it is allowable, the previous restriction requirement was withdrawn. In view of the allowability of claims 1-6, prosecution on the merits was closed in accordance with the practice established under Ex parte Quayle.

Applicants and applicants' attorney acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowability concerning original claims 1-6.

In accordance with this response, claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 have been amended in minor editorial respects to improve the wording and to overcome the informality in claim 1 noted by the Examiner. The specification has been revised in minor editorial respects to correct obvious informalities and to improve the wording.

With respect to the claim objections, claim 1 has been amended on line 17 to change "which" to --the-- thereby overcoming the objection. Applicants prefer usage of the term "the" rather than "said" when referring to previously recited elements, as is apparent throughout the wording of the claims.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the preambles of dependent claims 2-6 because they begin with the

article "A" instead of "The", applicants respectfully traverse this objection and submit that the present wording of the claim preambles is correct. As each dependent claim is construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim(s) on which it depends, each dependent claim is a self-contained description of the invention and therefore should preferably begin with the article "A" or "An". See, for example, the acceptable preamble wording for claims set forth in MPEP §608.01(n), Section A, in which each dependent claim begins with the article "A".

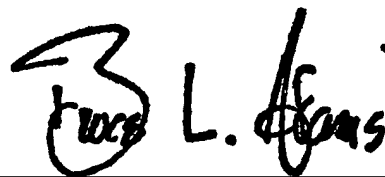
The Examiner's contention is also respectfully invited to cited U.S. Patent Nos. 4,827,783 (in which the preambles begin "A key shift transmission as claimed in claim...") and 5,109,722 (in which the preambles begin "An improved transmission as recited in claim...").

While the Examiner may have a stylistic preference for beginning the preamble of dependent claims with "The", it is certainly not objectionable, and is even preferable, to begin the preamble of dependent claims with either "A" or "An". Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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NOVEMBER 2, 2005

Date